

SAMUEL S. GREEN.

[To accompany Bill H. R. No. 514.]

Mr. ALLEY, from the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads, made the following

REPORT.

*The Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads, to whom was referred the petition of Samuel S. Green, of New Orleans, praying for relief, respectfully submit the following report:*

The petitioner, Samuel S. Green, contracted with the Post Office Department, on the 26th day of April, 1853, to carry the United States mail, on route 3503, from New Orleans, by Pensacola, Apalachicola, St. Mark's, Cedar Keys, and Tampa Bay, to Key West, and back, twice a month, for \$26,000 per annum. It was a new and untried route—upon a dangerous coast—deficient in buoys, lights, and guides—and the petitioner was unable to make in all cases *schedule time*, sometimes in consequence of rough weather, and in some instances on account of the prevalence of the yellow fever. In consequence of his inability to make *schedule time*, the department imposed upon him, at sundry times, heavy fines—amounting in all to \$9,208 24—and withheld his pay to satisfy these fines. This petitioner now prays to have these fines remitted, alleging that they are unjust, inasmuch as the delays were no fault of his, but incident to the circumstances of the case, over which he could have no control. It appears in evidence that his successor was paid \$42,000 per annum, and failed to make much nearer *schedule time* than the petitioner. The department now pay for the same service about \$76,000, and are subjected to occasional delays. The postmasters upon the route certify to the industry, vigilance, and energy of the petitioner, in endeavoring to perform all the stipulations of the contract to the utmost of his ability, and they ascribe his failures to make *schedule time*, in most cases, to circumstances over which he had no control.

Your committee, therefore, believing that the petitioner performed the conditions of his contract to the best of his ability, and that if the fines are remitted the sum paid him is very inadequate for the service performed, recommend that the fines be remitted, and the passage of the accompanying bill.

